GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2731
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2004
CONSTRUCTION OF ASH-DYKE
Modi Shri Sushil Kumar

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of second ash-dyke of NTPC in Kahalgaon, Bihar has posed threat of submerging more than fifty villages in the nearby area;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the construction work of ash-dyke has been suspended due to the protest raised by the local people;

(d) if so, the details there about and whether the Government propose to develop water drainage system in the ash-dyke affected villages; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED)

(a) & (b) : There is no danger of submergence of villages due to construction of balance ash dyke. The construction of this dyke is taken up only after taking into consideration all the recommendations based on studies conducted by National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), Roorkee and Central Water & Power Research Station (CWPRS), Pune, both Government of India organizations under the Ministry of Water Resources.

(c) : The construction of balance dyke work started in January, 2004 and continued smoothly up to March, 2004. The construction work has been stopped by local villagers since April, 2004 demanding permanent employment and raising other issues, e.g., Village development works, apprehensions for flood water drainage etc. Regarding permanent employment, presently, there is no requirement of additional manpower/vacancy; however, village development works and floodwater drainage are being carried out by NTPC.

(d) : Comprehensive studies for drainage of floodwater around ash dyke area including Kahalgaon plant of NTPC had been carried out by M/s. Central Water & Power Research Station (CWPRS), Pune, and National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), Roorkee. Based on their recommendation, various flood protection works have been formulated which are under execution by M/s. Larsen & Tourbo (L&T) at NTPC`s Kahalgaon plant including ash dyke area.

(e) : The following actions have been initiated by NTPC to ensure proper water passage during heavy rains/flood and to maintain the virgin conditions of the area:

(i) Provision of water opening totaling 300 Meter across the embankment of approach road to Ash Dyke in the form of Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC) bridge/culvert.

(ii) Provision of 75 Meter opening is being made in between the dyke embankments to give passage for natural flow of Naria & Kharia Nallah.

(iii) Replacing the existing pipe culvert of 35 Meter width on Naria Nallah by a Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC) bridge increasing the width to 75 Meter.

(iv) Removal of abandoned sub-structure of Road Bridge and Eastern Railway bridge near Ganges River.